

## Rearing the larval stages of *Distoleon tetragrammicus* (Fabricius, 1798) (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae) from egg to adult, with notes on their behaviour

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### Abstract

Eggs of the ant-lion *Distoleon tetragrammicus* (Fabricius, 1798) were obtained from gravid females for the first time. Larvae were reared to the adult stage from eggs. The eggs and the different parts of the larva such as head, mandibles and antennae, are described and illustrated and larval behavior in each stage was monitored.

**Key words:** Rearing, description, egg, larvae, imago, Turkey

### Introduction

The attention of naturalists has been attracted to the highly intriguing life history and behavior of myrmeleontid larvae for over 200 years. However, most information on development of Myrmeleontidae refers to two central European species, *Myrmeleon formicarius* and *Euroleon nostrans*, without even referring to all developmental stages (Popov 1984). The life cycle of *Myrmecaelurus trigrammus* (Pallas 1771), was investigated and reported on by Popov (1984).

Brief and insufficient data exist for only certain Mediterranean and some non-European species (Popov 1984). However, there exists a great deal of data on New World ant-lion larvae from the contributions of Stange (1980) and Stange and Miller (1990).

Larvae of a number of myrmeleontid genera build distinctive cone-shaped traps in